

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides methods of treating autoimmune and chronic inflammatory conditions by administering agents that hinder the CD30/CD30L interaction, combination treatments, and methods of treating conditions resistant to treatment with TNF $\alpha$  inhibitors by administering agents that inhibit signal transduction by CD30 or IL-1. Included also are treatments involving concurrently administering agents that block the CD30/CD30L interaction and agents that antagonize the IL-4/IL-4R interaction. Additionally provided is an animal model for screening candidate agents for their efficacy in treating conditions that are resistant to treatment with TNF $\alpha$  inhibitors.